

A POST-OFFICE FEUD.

A TEMPEST IN THE TOLEDO TEAPOT.

THE FACTS ABOUT THE REMOVAL OF POSTMASTER DOWLING AND THE APPOINTMENT OF STANLEY MATTHEWS'S FRIEND.

FROM A STAFF CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Sept. 15.—The quarrel about the Toledo Post-office is still kept up, and much more is said here about the assertions and doings of the suspended Postmaster and his de facto successor and their respective partisans than about the State campaign. This fact, and the possible influence of the alteration on the result of the coming election, warrant an inquiry into an affair, which, as far as its real merits are concerned, would otherwise be a mere neighborhood teapot tempest.

Patrick H. Dowling, an energetic Irishman, was appointed Postmaster three years ago on the recommendation of Gen. J. H. Sherwood, then the Congressman from this district. They had served in the same regiment, and Mr. Dowling had worked hard to get Gen. Sherwood nominated and elected, so it was a case of mutual tickling. Mr. Dowling made a good official, and his record at the Department in Washington, however, and many of the party managers disliked him on account of his habit of opposing now and then some of the lines on the county and city tickets. When his friend Gen. Sherwood failed of a re-nomination in 1874, it is said that Mr. Dowling intrigued with the Democrats to defeat his successful competitor, Mr. Pratt, and did a good deal to elect Frank Hurd. Last Spring, soon after President Hayes's inauguration, Mr. Dowling received a letter from Assistant Postmaster-General Tynor, informing him that the President desired to make a change in the Toledo Post-office, and that the Department was directed to ask for his resignation. He hastened to Washington, and saw the President, who gave him no reason for removing him, but told him he had made up his mind about the matter. Mr. Dowling refused to resign, and the President suspended him under the Tenure-of-office act, and appointed Alexander Reed his successor. Mr. Reed, a prominent citizen, had been an active politician for a long time. He was an early Republican, but held under Johnson's Administration the place of Treasury Agent, and afterward that of Postmaster at Toledo—the latter post for him by the joint efforts of Gen. Sheridan and Senator Sherman. In a word, he was "Johnsonized." He went out of office when Grant was inaugurated, and soon after returned to his allegiance to the Republican party.

Mr. Reed is a man of wealth, and is the manager of both the Republican daily newspapers published here—the *Commercial* and *The Blade*—which have consolidated, and are published, one in the morning and the other in the evening. Controlling the only daily papers of his party in Northwestern Ohio, he is, of course, a power in politics, and when he went down to Columbus last Winter to take a hand in the Senatorial fight, his help was no doubt sought by both competitors. At all events, Matthews secured him, and the votes which he influenced gave him the nomination. Thus far, I believe, I am on the safe ground of fact. When, shortly afterward, Mr. Reed was made Postmaster, and Mr. Wagoner the editor of one of his newspapers, Collector of Internal Revenue, it was a very natural conjecture that this was the new Senator's work, and that Mr. Reed had got his reward in the old-fashioned way in vogue before the Civil Service Reform Administration came in.

Now Mr. Dowling was not the sort of man to take his discomfiture with meekness. He had no daily paper to blow his horn in, but his friend Gen. Sherwood was editing a Sunday weekly—the *Journal*—and it promptly opened fire on Stanley Matthews and Alexander Reed, charging a bargain between them by which the Post-office was made the price of the transfer of the Lucas delegation from Mr. Taft to Mr. Matthews. It has been banging away ever since, with what effect I cannot say, but certainly in an exceedingly lively manner. The quarrel has been carried into the County Conventions, and it showed itself in the late State Convention at Cleveland, where Mr. Dowling supported Mr. Taft because he supposed him to be opposed to Mr. Hayes, and by so doing frightened away five of Mr. Taft's adherents who were warm Hayes men. The newspapers outside of Toledo have had a great deal to say about the affair, especially the Democratic papers like *The Cincinnati Enquirer* and *The Chicago Times*, who have made all the capital they could out of the apparent violation of the Civil Service policy in the removal of Mr. Dowling without cause. Mr. Reed's friends say that the Dowling faction have supplied these papers with correspondence from Toledo on the subject. I am getting now into a foggy region of conflicting assertions and accusations, and when I inquire what the effect of the unfortunate controversy will be on the Republican vote next month in this city and county, nothing can be plainly foreseen except the very prominent fact that it can do the party nothing but harm. Mr. Reed says that Mr. Dowling has less than a score of sympathizers. Mr. Reed's associates, on the other hand, say that he has over three-fourths of the voters on his side. Mr. Reed's friends say that he is acceptable to the people. Mr. Dowling's partisans declare that Mr. Reed is a scoundrel. On the whole, the matter is making a very personal affair; on the other, that the party and the community have taken it up. Mr. Dowling's friends tell me that Gen. Sherman, the Republican Senator from Toledo, was said, when a few days ago, that it would be worth \$50,000 to have Mr. Reed resign; that Postmaster's friends report that Gen. Robinson consulted with him about the campaign in this party, and that he expressed confidence that the Post-office quarrel would have no tangible effect on the result. Which side shall I believe? A correspondent cannot go around and poll the town to see how many Reed men and how many Dowling men there are in it. In such controversies it is generally safe to discount the claims of both sides one-half. Applying this rule here, it still leaves the dissatisfied element large enough to have an important influence on the election, at a time when the labor movement is entering into the Republican vote heavily, and when both the county and Senatorial District, as well as the State, are in doubt.

I am confirmed in the opinion that the Post-office quarrel is a serious matter by the confidence the Democrats express that it will work to their benefit. Gen. Steadman, whom I found to-day sitting at a pine table with sleeves rolled up, writing editorials for his Democratic newspaper, in the midst of his printers, said: "I hope you don't come to heal the Toledo Post-office. It's helping our party a good deal, and we like to have a fellow come and give it a scratch now and then." Gen. Steadman is running for the Senate, and is confident of being elected. He has been a member of the famous anti-slavery agitator before the war, and the Republican member from this district for about a dozen years. He was a Democrat, but is not in active politics. It is now a matter of the political life of one of its supporters, without incurring the risk of getting itself and its friends into trouble. If Mr. Dowling had been allowed to serve out his term, which only a year remained, the Republican party in Ohio would have been spared the unpleasant and dangerous family quarrel at a critical point in a close campaign.

NEW JERSEY'S NEXT GOVERNOR.

The Hudson County, N. J., Democratic General Committee passed resolutions on Saturday recommending the nomination for Governor, at the convention to-morrow, of the Hon. Leon Abbott, of Jersey City. The Essex County delegation is evenly divided between Messrs. McGee and Rigler, the two candidates

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 16.—Senator Ransom, of North Carolina, emphatically declares that the Democrats will not endeavor to secure the organization of the Senate by trickery or by any alliance with dissatisfied carpet-bag Republicans. He says the Democrats will surely obtain possession of the Senate in the regular course of elections within a year, and that the party would lose more than it could gain by any such attempt. Now the Democrats who are planning the reorganization of the Senate, place their reliance on the carpet-baggers, and a leading man and a new-fledged carpet-bagger, Messrs. Conover, Dorsey, Patterson and Spencer, to cooperate with them in this programme. One fact is overlooked. These four Southern Republican Senators now have important chairmanships under the reorganization of the Senate at the Executive Session last Spring. These assignments were: Spencer, Military Affairs; Dorsey, District of Columbia; Patterson, Territories; and Conover, Enrolled Bills. These chairmanships are much more important ones than these Senators would be likely to receive under any Democratic organization of the Senate; the carpet-baggers, if they remain true to their reputation, are not the men to abandon the first-class committees over which they now preside for the almost certain chance of securing less advantageous positions with the Democrats in power.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16, 1877.

Representative Schleicher, of Texas, is still here. He says that, notwithstanding the peaceful rumors of the last few days, he fears that at no very distant day there will be trouble between Mexico and the United States on the Rio Grande border, and that the Mexican people will force the Diaz Government to take the initiative. He thinks that the intentions of both President Diaz and of his representative here, Behr and Mata, are friendly, and that these gentlemen are both endeavoring to establish amicable relations with this country; but, Mr. Schleicher says, the turbulent population here, and especially as there is a large force of troops, and that the Diaz Government could be more firmly established by a threatening demonstration toward the United States.

The name most prominently mentioned in connection with the Commissioning of Indian Affairs now is that of E. K. Hoyt, of New York City. It cannot be said, however, with any degree of positiveness that the place has been tendered to him. Very little is known of this gentleman as a National man, but he is quite well known as a local man. He has been connected with the New York City Police Department, and has also been connected with the New York City Police Department, and has also been connected with the New York City Police Department.

The Treasury officials are not advised that all the principal Custom House officers of New York have been invited here to a conference to-morrow, as has been published. On the contrary, the fact is, however, that they have been invited to come, and are expected to-morrow. But it was not requested to come to a general conference about Custom House business, but to a conference on the subject of the report relative to the *Wells Fargo* Department.

The Secretary of the Treasury received from New York from an unknown person, \$7,551.35, for an error in income returns for the years 1865 and 1866, and an omission in the year 1870, and has placed the same to the credit of the Treasury.

First Assistant Postmaster-General Tynor will visit his home in Indiana this week. Before returning to Washington, he will call on Senator Morton at Richmond.

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The proposed plan will, if successful, save the company from the loss of its policy-holders. On the other hand, it tempts the temporary reduction of all policies one-half, and a corresponding reduction of premiums, all the profits to be applied to the reduction of the reduced policy-holders, until they are at their old figures. Mention the management is to be changed, and the whole business to be placed in the hands of a new management, and the company to be placed in the hands of a new management, and the company to be placed in the hands of a new management.

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